EXPERIMENT STATION WORK

Many States Show Increased In terest by Larger Appropriations.

STATION VIRGINIA

An Awakened Concern Among the Farmers for Scientific Truth.

The increasing interest in Experiment Station work is shown by the liberal ap-propriations made in many States for their maintenance.

Station work is shown by the local appropriations made in many States for their maintenance.

Probably most people are familiar with the fact that stations were originally organized under the line hat, which provides that \$15,000.00 a year of Federal money shall be given to each State maintaining a station. This money is to be expended for original investigation relative to problems which confront the farmers of that immediate section, and not for the purpose of disseminating general information or promoting the individual interests of some individual or corporation who has an axe to grind. It is furthermore stated in the organic law of the stations, that the funds provided shall not be used, except in very limited amounts, for the erection of buildings or the purchase of land, it being expected that the equipment needed by the station and the funds for its future growth and development would be supplied by the States accepting the Federal fund. The Virginia station has had a long and honorable career, but up to the present time it has nover received any direct support from the State; and this fact should be carefully noted. When it is considered that the station is supposed to carry on investigations relative to practically every interest of the farmers of Virginia, it is not surprising that the sum of \$15,000.00, which it has hitherto received, should prove totally inadequate for the tasks set before it. The station is supposed to employ the most reliable and successful scientists in the

station is supposed to employ the most reliable and successful scientists in the field of general agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, botany, blology, horticulture, entomology, veterinary science and field experiments. Clerical services must also be available in order that the thousands of letters annually received may be properly answered, and the bulletins giving the results of investigations, distributed. It is not surprising, therefore, in view of the expert services which the station is supposed to have that from £0,000,00 of 90,000,00 of its funds should annually be spent for salaries, while even then the men employed do not receive very liberal remuneration for their services. With £2,000,00 spent for labor and \$1,000,00 for publications, and the necessary postage, freight and express, heat, light, power and water, chemical supplies, seeds, fertilizers, food-stuffs, etc., the \$15,000,00 is gone and very little apparently left with which to accomplish work of scientific value and conduct original investigations. A better understanding of these matters would probably result in something more than adverse of the seneral between these station is supposed to employ the most reliable and successful scientists in the

verse criticism.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK.

In view of the general interest that seems to have been aweakened in the work of the Virginia Experiment station, it seems appropriate that some statement with reference to the various lines of work in progress which have a definite bearing on the agricultural economics of the State, should be presented for the consideration of Virginia farmers, since this the only institution in the State where original research is the State where original research is progress for the benefit of agriculture Although that is the interest in which by far the larger part of our people are engaged, and in which property is in-vested, it does not seem reasonable to vested, it does not seem reasonable to suppose that if the farmers of the State are informed as to the value of the work now in progress and the benefits to be derived from what has been accomplished, that they would hesitate to demand that the station receive adequate State support in the future.

The claim is frequently made that the work of the Experiment Station and the builetins issued therefrom are beyond

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the understanding of the average farmer. This is not true, as it implies a degree of ignorance and inability to conceive facts on the part of the farmer which is little short of shander. After years of work in farmers' sinstitutes and other organizations by which the writer has been brought directly in contact with farmers he has come to appreciate very clearly that they are anything but a stupid, ignorant lot of menithat they can grasp facts relative to their business clearly and quickly. Furthermore, it is eveldent that if the bulletines of the station and the work in progress deal with known conditions, they would not provide new and useful information for farmers.

The following statements set forth

The following statements set some of the more important facts connection with the station's work, which show its merit and that the reew examples are given of the very many

terest in animal industries, and the econ torest in animal industries, and the economic maintenance of beef and dairy cattle is, therefore, a subject of great importance. In a recent feeding test with skxty head of beef cattle it was found that the twenty head of cattle receiving sliding gained 5,100 pounds in 400 days, or sliage gained 5,100 pounds in 200 days, or 1.46 pounds per head per day; the twenty receiving hay, gained 3,9000 pounds, or 1.10 pounds per head per day; and the twenty receiving stover, gained 3,400 pounds, or .97 pounds per head per day. An these cattle received the same kind of meal, yet the difference was considerable, due to the effect of the roughfness used. The slinge fed cattle, for instance, gained 1,200 pounds more than the cattle fed hay, 1,200 pounds more than the cattle red hay, and 1,700 pounds more than the cattle fed stover. Of course, silage cannot be fed for all purposes, and under all circumstances, but thousands of silos could be built and profitably utilized in Virginia, where there are now none.

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THE FINANCIAL SIDE.

Then, the financial side of the question is worth considering, for silage can be made at a cost of \$2 per ton, whereas, the timothy hay used in these experiments was valued on the farm at \$3, and the stover at \$5. Under the conditions outlined there are thousands of cattle that could be annually fed in Virginia on silage, made fat and of superior quality for slaughter, and the timothy hay now silage, made fat and of superior quality for shughter, and the timothy hay now so generally fed, sold for \$10 to \$15 a ton. The cotton seed meal fed with the silage and corn would more than replace the fortility contained in the hay and the farmer would be afead in every respect. The twelfth census shows that \$43,079 tons of hay were produced in the State at a value of \$7,599,082. Replacing the \$10 to \$15 a ton hay with \$2 silage and cotton sed meal would effect a saving of several million deliars annually to the farmers of Virginia. If the station had done nothing else since its organization and conducted no further experiments, it would have paid for itself a thousand times over by this single demonstration. and conducted no further experiments, it would have paid for itself a thousand times over by this single demonstration. In an experiment conducted with 34 dairy cows during the past winter timothy hay was fed against corn stover as a roughness in conjunction with silage. The results indicate that the stover, while not quite equal to timothy hay, could be used fairly well to replace it in a ration for dairy cows. This is another fact of yast importance. In this trial it was further shown that concentrates are chiefly valuable for dairy cows in proportion to the digestible protein they contain. In other words, that cotton seed meal containing 37.2 per cent. of digestible protein and costing about \$25.00 to \$27.00 a ton, was worth about three times as much as wheat brain, containing 12 per cent. of digestible protein and costing from \$23.00 to \$25.00 a ton. It has been a common practice in the past for farmers to use wheat brain in preference to cotton seed meal and other concentrated, protein bearing foods, because they did not understand the basis on which the value of foods should be estimated.

YIELD OF CORN.

The average yield of corn in Virginia

estimated.

YIELD OF CORN.

The average yield of corn in Virginia is about 22 bushels per acre. If corn were planted in hills 39.6 inches apart each way, there would be 4,000 hills per acre. If two stalks were allowed to grow in each hill there would be 8,000 stalks per acre. If each stalk yields an ear it would mean that it only weighed 2.5 ounces. As a matter of fact, the ears of corn produced are much larger than this, but it is still endent that the stand is very imperfect, that the development of the cars is below a sulfable standard. In other words, the se-

that constantly come to the attention of those in charge of the work. Virginia has a large and growing in-

lection and improvement of corn and other cereals is a subject which has been grievously neglected. If only a quarter of an ounce of grain were added to cach of the 8,000 stalks indicated above, the yield of the corn in the State would be increased this year by four and a half millian bushels, with a value of \$2,225,000. Numerous experiments are in progress on the station farm with the object of securing improved strains of cereals, grasses, legumes, potatoes, etc. As there strains are developed and improved through selection and plant breeding, they will be distributed to a limited number of farmers for propagation in their section and redistributed to neighboring farmers who may be interested in their culture. By these methods, in the course of a few years, it is believed that a work of immense value will be accomplished, for it is clearly recognized that imperfect methods of cultivation and fertilization and the use of unsatisfactory varieties is largely responsible for the small yields of corn and other cereals now obtained. This is but one example of many that might be given to show the value of the stallon.

investigations now in progress at the sta-

investigations now in progress at the station.

The Virginia experiment station has taken a very active part in the development of the horticultural interests of the State, and to its efforts are due in a large measure the successful development of the apple industry. Valuable information has been disseminated concerning planting, pruning ad apraying fruit trees and the control of insect pests. A detailed statement of the useful work done cannot be given at this time, nor can the results flowing from it be correctly estimated. One example indicative of its value must be incorporated, before passing to another topic. Virginia has shipped \$33,541 barrels of apples during the last five years. On the basis of \$2 per barrel, this fruit would represent \$1,500,000. One-half of this output would have been worthless had not the depredations of the San Jose scale been effectually checked. The laws governing the control and eradication of this pest were enacted largely through the efforts of the station officers, and practically all the information of value that has been disseminated in the State with reference to it, has come from the same source.

BACTERIA INFLUENCE.

BACTERIA INFLUENCE.

Bacteria are closely related to the various processes connected with plant growth and development. Recently artificial cultures for the inoculation of is gumes have been placed on the market. \$1.50 to \$2 being asked for enough of the fl.50 to \$2 being asked for enough of the commercial product to incoulate an acre of land. The low cost of the material makes this price unreasonable, and in order that the interests of the farmer might be fully protected, the station has undertaken to prepare these cultures and distribute them at a cost of 25 cents per acre. Material will be sent out the present that the present that a cost of 25 cents per acre. Material will be sent out the present that a cost of 25 cents per acre.

acre. Material will be sent out the present year for more than 3,00 acres of land, so that the saving effected in this direction alone amounts to \$5,20, or over one-third of the entire sum expended by the station during the past fiscal year.

This department has also made some careful microscopical investigations of patent foods placed on the market. The average retail price of these foods is \$538.47, but their real value per ton is little above \$30. The basis of these foodstuffs was wheat bran, cotton seed meal, gluten meal, etc., to which was added a little sait, gentlan, fenusrock, charcoal, little salt, gentlan, fenugrock, charcoal, étc. Their medicinal value was not worth ctc. Their medicinal value was not worth considering, yet their purchase and use represents an immense drain on the resources of the farmor, for which he receives no adequate return. ... n pointing out the utter worthlessness of these foods, the station has rendered a service to the farmers of the State worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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The dairy department has not been idle. It has shown that by proper care and treatment cream can be shipped from Virginia to New Orleans, Palm Beach, Fla., and various other points from 1,000 to 1,000 miles distant. As mile and butter can be made at a reasonable price in Virginia, this opens up a market for the sale of dairy products at profitable prices unavailable some years ago. The dairy department has also given ndvice and suggestions to any farmers engaged I nithe manufacture of butter and cheese and in the sale of milk and cream. It has shown them how to install apparatus that has enabled them to cheapen the cost of production very materially, and place their output on the market in first class condition. There are farmers in Virginia who are making 100 profit per cow who were discourage and ready to abandon the business until the daily department of the station came to their assistance. It is not possible to estimate the real, value of the stations work, but it has reached out and influenced men in almost every county in the State and enabled them to establish profitable industries where failure had previously attended their efforts.

SAFETY WORK.

A single example will show the value of the entomological work being doine by the experiment station. Recently a ship-

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The mention of sulphur will recall to many of us the early days when our mothers and grandmothers gave us our taily dose of sulphur and moisses every spring and fall. Universal spring and fall town of the property of the fall universal spring and fall. The day of the fall universal spring and fall town of the fall universal spring and fall town of the fall universal spring and fall town of the fall universal spring and fall spring and fall universal spring and spring and fall universal spring and spring and fall universal spring and spring and

often surprises patient and physician alike. R. M. Wikkins, while experimenting with sulphur remedies, soon found that the sulphur from Calcium was superior to any other form. He says: "For liver, kidney and hood troubles, sepecially when resulting from constipation or malaria, I have been surprised at the results obtained from Stuart's Calcium Warers. In patients suffering from boils and pimples, and even deep-seated carbuncies. I have ropeatedly seen them dry up and disappear in four or live days, leaving the skin clear and smooth. Although Stuart's Calcium Wafers is a proprietary article and sold by druggists, and for that reason taboost by many physicians, yet I know of nothing so safe and reliable for constipation, liver and kiney troubles, and especially in all forms of skin disease, as this remedy."

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ment of 3,000 diseased trees were destroyed. Valuing the trees at 10 centre each, 300 was thus saved to the planters, not, to speak of the loss of the land and the disappointment and Gestruction of the orchard in the course of a few years from crown gall, the disease with which the trees were affected. The entomological department has also shown that the cost of producing the lime-sulphur wash for the San Jose scale should not exceed 1 1-4 cent per gallon, which would make 250 gallons cost about \$3.17, while the cost of Con-sol, one of the patent remedies which has been extensively advertised, would be \$50.00. The saving effected on a single fruit farm would thus often amount to \$50.00. This sapplied to all the orchards of the Sate totals up a very large sum.

In mycology some very important work has been accompalished. A number of plant diseases have been very carefully studied, and methods devised for their endication and control. Excellent work has been done on the canning of fruit and vegetables and the results published for the benefit of those interested in this line. Special studies have been made on the manufacture of ciders and vinegars of standard quality through the use of pure cultures of yeast, and it has been clearly shown that the thousands of bushels of undestrable applies which are often allowed to go to waste, can be utilized to advantage and at a large profit, for the manufacture of palatable cider through the cultures of these yeasts. The station has sent out a number of these cultures at a very moderate cost and is now in a position to assist all those who may desire to experiment with them in the future. While no money value can be placed on these results, they are quite as farreaching in their influence as those obtained in many other departments.

The department of veterinary science has done good work from its inception. The amount of black-leg vaccine distributed totals up something like 15,000 doses. On the commercial value of 15 cents per dose this department has saved \$2,250,00 to t

\$2,250,00 to the furmers of the State, providing we ignore the thousands of animals which the use of the vaccine has saved. More than 500 important letters dealing with various disease are answered by the department each year. These have at least a money value of \$1,000, while the free clinics and other work done without charge for the benefit of the farmers will annually total up \$1,000,000.

AN INFORMATION BUREAU. There is another feature of the sta-tion's work which is worthy of special mention, and that is the correspondence through which information of immense value is given to farmers. During the present year at least 10,000 letters have

mention, and that is the correspondence through which information of immense though which information of immense through which information of immense the present year at least 10,000 letters have been received and answered, and these replies have certainly been worth at aplece. Some farmers have written and stated that the replies were worth hundreds of dollars to them, So that in this one item alone at least \$10,000,000 per annum is saved. This represents two-thirds of the entire cost of the station, and entails an immense burden to the officers, which is chearfully borne when it is recognized that the information given is of such immense assistance to the farmers of the Batts.

During the past year between thirty and forty farmers' institutes have been attended, and addresses delivered before between 8,000 and 26,000 farmers. These addresses covered subjects of vital' concern to stockmen and farmers and have done much to encourage and inspire those who have not had an opportunity previously to come in touch with selentific truths on which profitable agricultural practice must be based in the future. Already applications have been received for many institutes during finest full and winter, showing that the effort put forth has been productive of much good, and has resulted in the stimulation of an interest in modern agricultural practice, which heretofo did not exist.

The station also publishes builletins from time to time. During the prisent year some six of these will be issued, beside the annual report coverling more than 200 pages, and representing original work. Some of the facts presented in these builletins have already been touched on in the foregoing paragraphs, and the results obtained have brought to light questions which merit serious consideration at the hands of thoughtful persons. Our buildins are published in editions of 15,000, so that more than 10,000 pampilets will be sent out such some pertinent too it is sant out such month. In this way thousands of farmers are reached to the drientural p

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ricultural interests of the State as leat it may with the limited funds at its disposal, and it is quite clear that every deliar expended is being accounted for with results of immense value, At the present time the station is the only in stilution in the State whose sole alm and object is to investigate problems of direct concern to the farmers of the State. It is the only institution to which they can look for special instruction and guidance with reference to the many problems which confront them daily. The good the station can accomplish is limited by the meagre support it is receiving at the piesent time.

The results achieved speak for themselves, and it must remain for the larmers of the State to say what the future policy of the station shall be. Surely an institution that has accomplished work of such direct value to every farmer of the State, and whose aims are so clearly defined should receive the unqualified support of all who are interested in the agricultural rejuvenation of Virginia Experiment Station.

NINGEW M. SOULE, Virginia Experiment Station.

ANDREW M. SOULE, Virginia Experiment Station.

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